

## THERAPY

Sue was on a house-cleaning  
binge. So I knew  
she was pissed off  
about something  
or somebody  
usually me

She dropped some papers  
from a dusty file  
that looked like  
in my handwriting

But they weren't mine  
they'd been written  
by a young man  
with bright eyes  
a pure smile  
and children  
in his sacs

## QUANDRY

Seymour my crazy brother  
phoned me said  
Hymie, I'm dying.  
That week I was dying too.  
Thelma had left me again  
which scared me shitless  
that she'd come back again.  
I'd move out tonight  
move to Wichita  
but the rent's been paid  
to the end of the month  
and that's not till  
a week from Thursday.

## HEYWOOD BROWN

always carried  
a gallon of gin  
in his veins.  
He wrote about  
the frailties  
of the heart  
stupidity of the head  
failure of the guts  
but not of the liver.

## BROTHERS

I should phone  
my brother  
who hasn't phoned me  
since he made  
all that dough.  
He used to call me  
to borrow ten  
or his rent was due  
his bookie edgy.  
Now he's become rich  
fat and vulgar  
without a reason  
to phone his brother.  
I'd call him  
if I knew  
what the hell for.

## EVERY MORNING

At breakfast he dug  
his spoon into the grapefruit  
as into a relative.

I've had it up to  
he pointed his index finger  
to the top of his head  
here.

You want your pancakes  
with or without?  
With.  
She served his pancakes  
with.

I've had it up to here.  
This time he pointed  
to his throat. Coffee's  
cold he said.

How do you know? You  
haven't had any.  
He sipped at the coffee  
behind The Herald threw  
the paper on the floor  
banged the coffeecup  
on the table.

Up to here she heard  
as he  
pointed his beard  
out the door.

-- Herman Gold

Bay Harbor Island FL

#### TO COMPLETE THE CIRCLE

we need people who have the power  
to give it  
to those unable to start themselves  
mobility is an evasion  
it's impossible to be receptive  
while listening to the news  
we need people with the power to be generous  
who do not think in 4 year terms  
the president is at least 150 years  
behind his time  
we don't need a House  
we need people